

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 FRB-01 H-01 INR-07 L-02 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 RSC-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-01 TAR-01

TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 /075 R

DRAFTED BY EB/OF/FPD:RSSIMPSON:JS

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EB/OF/FPD - MPBOERNER

EA/ANZ - MMICHAUD

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R 090046Z JAN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, AS

SUBJECT: 1975 MEAT IMPORT PROGRAM

REF: (A) CANBERRA 14; (B) CANBERRA 61; (C) STATE 626

1. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES EMBASSY'S DESIRE TO COUNTER PUBLIC CRITICISM OF PROPOSED US 1975 PROGRAM SUCH AS REPORTED REF (B). WE BELIEVE THIS CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED WITHOUT DIVULGING DETAILS OF US PROPOSAL. CONCERNING THE LEVEL OF PROPOSED PROGRAM IT CAN BE POINTED OUT THAT 1150 MIL. POUNDS REPRESENTS INCREASE OF 8 PERCENT, NOT DECREASE, IN TOTAL IMPORTS IN RELATION TO 1974 (CURRENT ESTIMATE FOR 1974 IS 1065 MILLION POUNDS). AUSTRALIA'S NORMAL SHARE OF US MARKET FOR FRESH BEEF, VEAL AND MUTTON WOULD MEAN 1975 EXPORTS SOMEWHERE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF 600 MILLION POUNDS. THIS WOULD REPRESENT A SUBSTANTIAL

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INCREASE OVER US IMPORTS FROM AUSTRALIA IN 1974 (ESTIMATED

AT ABOUT 500 MIL. POUNDS) WHEN THE US MAINTAINED NO RESTRICTIONS ON MEAT IMPORTS AND FOR MUCH OF YEAR, WAS ONLY OPEN WORLD MARKET FOR BEEF.

2. IF ASKED FOR PRECISE PROPOSED RESTRAINT LEVEL FOR AUSTRALIAN EXPORTS IN 1975, EMBASSY CAN STATE THAT NEGOTIATIONS ON THIS ARE IN PROCESS, AND IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE TO DIVULGE THIS INFORMATION. EMBASSY OF COURSE FREE TO DISCUSS FACTUAL HISTORY OF US MEAT IMPORTS FROM

AUSTRALIA TO PROVIDE PERSPECTIVE. EMBASSY MAY ALSO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT AUSTRALIA INCREASED MEAT EXPORTS TO US DURING 1972 AND 1973 (ALTHOUGH NOT MORE THAN IT INCREASED ITS RATE OF EXPORTS TO OTHER DESTINATIONS) AND THAT US INTENDS TO TAKE THIS INTO ACCOUNT, AS WELL AS PERFORMANCE OF OTHER COUNTRIES, IN 1975. EMBASSY MAY ALSO DRAW ON REF (C), AS APPROPRIATE.

3. FYI. AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY (COMMERCIAL MINISTER SMITH) HAS EXPRESSED GOA CONCERN OVER LACK OF ADEQUATE PRIOR NOTICE AND DISCUSSION US PROPOSED PROGRAM. DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL INFORMED SMITH THAT US REGRETTED DELAY IN US DECISION (ALTHOUGH DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS HAD SEVERAL INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH EMBASSY PRIOR TO DECEMBER 27 NOTIFICATION). IN ORDER COMPLY WITH STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS, IT WAS DECIDED THAT SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE WOULD MAKE ANNOUNCEMENT ON DECEMBER 31 IN EXPECTATION THAT VOLUNTARY ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE WORKED OUT. THIS NOT RPT NOT INTENDED TO TAKE ON CHARACTER OF FAIT ACCOMPLI. WE RECOGNIZE THAT NON-COOPERATION OF ONLY ONE IMPORTANT SUPPLIER COULD FORCE US TO RECONSIDER WITHIN NARROW RANGE OF AVAILABLE OPTIONS, INCLUDING POSSIBLE IMPOSITION OF QUOTAS AT ADJUSTED BASED LEVEL (1,074 MILLION POUNDS). THIS BACKGROUND SHOULD BE BORNE IN MIND IN DIRECT EMBASSY CONTACTS WITH GOA, SUCH AS POSSIBLE LETTER FROM AMBASSADOR TO CAIRNS. END FYI. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, IMPORT QUOTAS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), MEATS, TRADE DATA
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE004647
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RSSIMPSON:JS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750008-0736
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750165/aaaacfeh.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 CANBERRA 14, 75 CANBERRA 61, 75 STATE 626
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <11 SEP 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 1975 MEAT IMPORT PROGRAM
TAGS: EAGR, AS, US
To: CANBERRA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006